

Beth Crittenden
Forest Avenue Academic Magnet Elementary School
1700 West 5th Street
Montgomery, AL 36106

RECEIVED

2021 JUN -8 P 3:53

Hon. Michael Kubayanda, Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001
Re: Docket number: MC2021-78

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

April 28, 2021

Dear Chairman Kubayanda,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the impact of moving bound printed matter parcels from the Market Dominant to the Competitive Product category. I know this will dramatically increase the rates for flyers and books that are mailed to schools.

I teach second grade in the Montgomery Public Schools district in Montgomery, Alabama, and there is no doubt that the additional costs will ultimately be passed on to those purchasing books—students and their families. There are already too many barriers to reading for most families in our district. Many teachers depend on access to affordable books, which the bound printed matter rates provide, to help close the gap for lower-income students who normally could not afford higher-priced books.

Typically, more than 60% of the district's students come from families that don't have the means to create home libraries for their children. For teachers who are Scholastic Book Clubs partners, we are able to earn and use Bonus Points to build classroom libraries of books for students. Many teachers also use low-cost but

high-quality books as rewards and/or gifts in class for children who would otherwise never have a new book of their own. These books, both in the classroom and at home, continue to inspire a love of reading in students, which has a positive impact on their success in all areas of life.

The pandemic has already had a tremendously negative consequence on students' learning experiences and literacy rates in the United States. The increase in mailing costs of educational materials will make access to children's literature even more difficult. I urge you to deny this transfer, or to exempt educational materials, so that teachers can continue to provide access to affordable, quality books for students and families. The impact of this change for our school children would be too high a cost to bear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. C. Peters".

CC: Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney Hon. Gary C. Peters Hon. Ron A. Bloom

D. 5th St.
Montgomery, AL 36106

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